

AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-11 (canceled).

*B*¹ Claim 12 (original): A method of reducing blood glucose levels in an animal comprising the step of orally administering IFN- α to said animal such that the IFN- α is ingested after oral administration.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein said interferon is selected from the group consisting of human recombinant interferon, rat interferon and murine interferon.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein said interferon is administered in a dosage of ~~from~~ about 50 I.U./kg to about 25,000 I.U./kg.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein said animal is a human.

Claims 16-18 (canceled).

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